

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 21, 2004. Claims 1-7, 10-14, and 17-25 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 8, 9, 15, 16, and 26 are objected to, but the Office Action indicates that they would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections. Claim 27 is allowed. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 18, 20, 23-24, 26, and present new Claims 28-34. Favorable action is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claim 27 is allowable. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 8-9 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and that Claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Applicants elect not to amend Claims 8-9, 15-16, and 26 to include the limitations of their respective independent claims at this time in view of the amendments and arguments presented below, but do reserve the right to amend these claims later to include the limitations identified by the Examiner. Favorable action is requested.

Claim Objection

The Office Action appears to state that certain claims terms of Claim 1, 4-5 and 7 lack antecedent basis and objects to the claims on that basis. Applicants amend Claims 1, 4-5, and 7, and respectfully submit that the objections to these claims should be withdrawn in view of the amendments. Favorable action is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11, 18, 23-24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 11, 18, 23-24, and 26 have been amended to overcome these rejections and the rejection of Claims 1, 18, 23-24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is moot. Favorable action is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,356,557 issued to Nichols et al ("Nichols"). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are improper for the reasons provided below.

Claim 1 is allowable because *Nichols* does not teach or suggest "a slave UTOPIA device . . . comprising: a receive poll controller operable to determine whether the memory area is available to transmit data for receipt by the master UTOPIA device and further operable to communicate the result of the determination to the receive transfer controller, wherein the receive poll controller includes a port selected from a group consisting of a poll enable port, a serial cell available port, a start of serial cell available port, a cell available port, an address port, a clock port, and a return clock port," as recited by Claim 1. As indicated by the allowance of Claim 8, *Nichols* does not disclose a receive poll controller having a poll enable port, a serial cell available port, a start of serial cell available port, a cell available port, an address port, a clock port, and a return clock port. Address mapper 82, register 88, and mux 92 of *Nichols*, which the Examiner identifies as constituting both a "receive poll controller" and a "transmit poll controller," in fact are not described by *Nichols* as having a poll enable port, a serial cell available port, a start of serial cell available port, a cell available port, an address port, a clock port, or a return clock port, and thus Claim 1 is allowable. Favorable action is requested.

For reasons analogous to those provided in conjunction with Claim 1, Claims 7, 14, and 20 are allowable. Favorable action are requested.

As depending from their allowable independent Claims 1, 7, 14, and 20, dependent Claims 2-6, 10-13, 17-19, 21-25, and 28-34 are also allowable. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

A check in the amount of \$126.00 is enclosed to cover the fees for seven new dependent claims. Applicants do not believe that other fees are due, but the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge these fees and any extra fee or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 16, 2004

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